

CLN 4U “Great Debates”
TOPICS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Following the format provided in the “Great Debate” outline, select **ONE** of the following topics to RESEARCH.
- Your group will do best if it **DOES NOT** split up into Affirmative and Negative sides until **AFTER THE RESEARCH IS COMPLETED.**
- Group debate presentations will occur **IN THE ORDER** of listed topics; however, the specific day **WILL BE DETERMINED IN CLASS.**

TOPICS:

- a. **Marijuana**
Be it resolved that the simple possession of less than 30 grams of marijuana should be decriminalized, and Canada’s Parliament must repeal this part of the Narcotics Control Act.
- b. **Censorship**
Be it resolved that the freedom of speech guaranteed in the "Charter of Rights and Freedoms" should make it impossible to ban OR RESTRICT pornographic materials and musical lyrics, which include statements of hatred, such as the misogynist statement, found in much of rapper Eminem’s music.
- c. **Affirmative Action**
Be it resolved that affirmative action programs, which are intended to assist minority groups, should be deemed UNCONSTITUTIONAL because they discriminate against the majority, which violates Section 15 (1) of the “Charter of Rights and Freedoms”.
- d. **Abortion**
Be it resolved that the "right to life", provided in Section 7 of the "Charter of Rights and Freedoms," should be interpreted by the courts to include the fetus, and, as a result, Canada’s “abortion law” should be enforced again.
- e. **Death Penalty**
Be it resolved that the death penalty should be returned to force in Canadian law in order to better protect the collective security of Canadian citizens and society. This can be justified under the mechanisms of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in terms of justifiably demonstrated limits on freedoms.
- f. **Euthanasia**
Be it resolved that the Charter grants individuals substantial control of their own lives, and should therefore provide individuals control over their own deaths in circumstances where quality of life is significantly compromised.
- g. **Surrogate Motherhood**
Be it resolved that Citizens should have the legal right to contract “birth for hire.” Liberty protections under the Charter ensure this, and should result in any criminal laws related to regulation of surrogate motherhood being deemed unconstitutional.
- h. **Anti –Terrorism Laws**
Be it resolved that the anti terrorism laws passed by the federal the federal government are inconsistent with the spirit of the Charter. These legislative blemishes should be corrected to restore the fundamental principles of justice under Canadian law.
- i. **Prostitution**
Be it resolved that prostitution should be legalized.
- j. **Same sex marriage**
Be it resolved that same sex couples should not be permitted to marry.